

IN THE CLAIMS

*No claims have been amended, added, or canceled by this submission.*

1. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling wireless network operations associated with a flow control process of a wireless communication network, the flow control process being operative to terminate data communication to a mobile station based on detection of an out-of-coverage condition between the mobile station and the wireless communication network, the method comprising the acts of:

identifying, by a network processor, an indication which indicates whether the mobile station or an application thereof utilizes an always-on connection for a data service provided via the wireless communication network;

causing, by the network processor, the flow control process to be bypassed for the mobile station based on the indication indicating that the mobile station or the application thereof utilizes the always-on connection for the data service; and

otherwise allowing the flow control process to be performed for the mobile station based on the indication indicating that the mobile station or the application thereof fails to utilize the always-on connection.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the always-on connection comprises a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the always-on connection is utilized for a data service comprising an e-mail communication service.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
wherein the act of identifying comprises receiving the indication based on data associated with the mobile station or the data service.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

wherein the act of identifying comprises receiving the indication from the mobile station through the wireless communication network.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
wherein the act of identifying comprises receiving the indication from the mobile station through the wireless communication network in response to an input signal at a user interface of the mobile station.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
wherein the act of identifying the indication comprises identifying the always-on connection based on data associated with the data service.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
wherein the act of identifying the indication comprises identifying a relatively low data rate of the data service.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
wherein the act of identifying the indication comprises identifying a predetermined Quality of Service (QoS) associated with the data service.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data service is one data service of a plurality of data services concurrently utilized by the mobile station.

11. (Previously Presented) A Radio Access Network (RAN) of a wireless communication network which is configured to control wireless network operations associated with a flow control process of the wireless communication network, the flow control process being operative to terminate data communications to a mobile station based on detection of an out-of-coverage condition between the mobile station and the wireless communication network, the RAN comprising:

a Packet Control Function (PCF) which is adapted to communicate with a Packet Service Data Node (PDSN);

the PCF being operative to identify an indication which indicates whether the mobile station or an application thereof utilizes an always-on connection for a data service provided via the wireless communication network;

the PCF being further operative to cause the flow control process to be bypassed for the mobile station based on the indication indicating that the mobile station or the application thereof utilizes the always-on connection for the data service; and

the PCF being further operative to otherwise allow the flow control process to be performed for the mobile station in connection with the PDSN based on the indication indicating that the mobile station or the application thereof fails to utilize the always-on connection.

12. (Original) The RAN of claim 11, wherein the always-on connection comprises a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session.

13. (Original) The RAN of claim 11, wherein the always-on connection is utilized for a data service comprising an e-mail communication service.

14. (Original) The RAN of claim 11, further comprising:  
wherein the PCF is operative to identify the indication by identifying the indication based on data associated with the mobile station or the data service.

15. (Original) The RAN of claim 11, further comprising:  
wherein the PDSN is operative to identify the indication by receiving it from the mobile station through the wireless communication network.

16. (Original) The RAN of claim 11, further comprising:

wherein the PDSN is operative to identify the indication by receiving it from the mobile station through the wireless communication network in response to an input signal at a user interface of the mobile station.

17. (Original) The RAN of claim 11, further comprising:  
wherein the PCF is operative to identify the indication by identifying the always-on connection based on data associated with the data service.

18. (Original) The RAN of claim 11, further comprising:  
wherein the PCF is operative to identify the indication by identifying a relatively low data rate of the data service.

19. (Original) The RAN of claim 11, further comprising:  
wherein the PCF is operative to identify the indication by identifying a predetermined Quality of Service (QoS) associated with the data service.

20. (Original) The RAN of claim 11, wherein the data service is one data service of a plurality of data services concurrently utilized by the mobile station.

21. (Previously Presented) A Packet Service Data Node (PDSN) which is configured to communicate with a Packet Control Function (PCF) of a Radio Access Network (RAN) and to control wireless network operations associated with a flow control process of the wireless communication network, the flow control process being operative to terminate data communications to a mobile station based on detection of an out-of-coverage condition between the mobile station and a wireless communication network, the PDSN being operative to:

identify an indication which indicates whether the mobile station or an application thereof utilizes an always-on connection for a data service provided via the wireless communication network;

cause the flow control process to be bypassed for the mobile station based on the indication indicating that the mobile station or the application thereof utilizes the always-on connection for the data service; and

otherwise allow the flow control process to be performed for the mobile station based on the indication indicating that the mobile station or the application thereof fails to utilize the always-on connection.

22. (Original) The PDSN of claim 21, wherein the always-on connection comprises a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session.

23. (Original) The PDSN of claim 21, being further configured to:  
prior to causing the flow control process to be performed or bypassed, receiving a request for the flow control process from the PCF.

24. (Original) The PDSN of claim 21, being further configured to:  
identify the indication by identifying the indication based on data associated with the mobile station or the data service.

25. (Original) The PDSN of claim 21, being further configured to:  
wherein the PDSN is operative to identify the indication by receiving it from the mobile station through the wireless communication network.

26. (Original) The PDSN of claim 21, being further configured to:  
identify the indication by receiving it from the mobile station through the wireless communication network in response to an input signal at a user interface of the mobile station.

27. (Original) The PDSN of claim 21, being further configured to:

identify the indication by identifying the always-on connection based on data associated with the data service.

28. (Original) The PDSN of claim 21, being further configured to:  
identify the indication by identifying a relatively low data rate of the data service.

29. (Original) The PDSN of claim 21, being further configured to:  
identify the indication by identifying a predetermined Quality of Service (QoS)  
associated with the data service.

30. (Original) The PDSN of claim 21, wherein the data service is one data service of a plurality of data services concurrently utilized by the mobile station.